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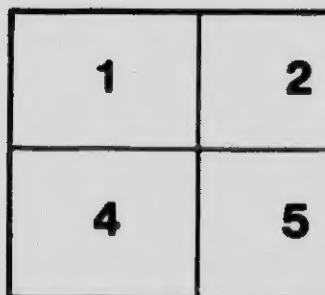
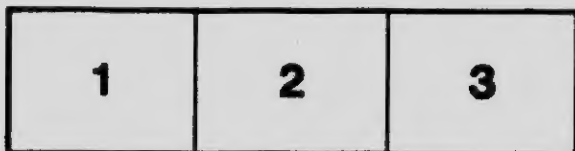
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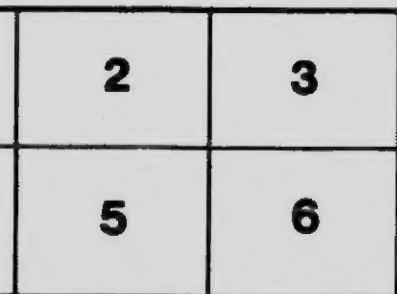
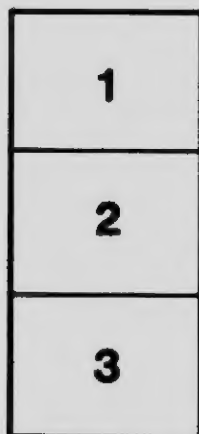
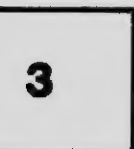
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PLATFORM

OF THE

LIBERAL PARTY of British Columbia

Lands for Settlers—None for Speculators

Loans to Settlers on Easy Terms

Timber for Actual Users Only

**Government Coal Mines Guarantee
Cheap Fuel**

Strict Enforcement of Criminal Law

Technical Education for all Classes

Equal Suffrage—Women with Men

Non-Partisan Civil Service

**Workmen's Compensation Without
Litigation Expenses**

A White British Columbia

89

The Platform

THE following is the platform of the Liberal Party of British Columbia, which principles we pledge ourselves to bring into operation when elected to power.

1.—Free Lands for Settlers — None for Speculators

(a) We believe that agricultural land should be disposed of only on such conditions as will insure its continuous use and occupation.

(b) We will utilize as far as practicable the resources of the Province in developing and making accessible the agricultural and other latent wealth of the Province by good roads or water communication where necessary.

(c) Free homesteads to actual settlers. Holders of pre-emptions to be given benefit of this provision.

(d) Advances to settlers on easy terms to assist in clearing, dyking, irrigation and other permanent improvements.

(e) Surveys of all accessible agricultural lands to be rapidly completed and survey sheets and all necessary information to be made easily available to the public.

(f) Settlement en bloc to be encouraged by the removal of reserves which scatter population and greatly increase the cost of roads, schools and other necessary facilities.

(g) No public lands for the speculator.

2.—Transportation

(a) Co-operation with the Dominion Government in securing all-rail connection between the railway systems of Vancouver Island and the railway systems of the mainland.

(b) The construction of a line owned and controlled by the Government to give direct communication by the best route as to grades and distances between the Similkameen and other interior points and the coast.

(c) The husbanding of the Provincial credit to assist lines that will open up new territory.

(d) We oppose Provincial credit and reserve being wasted in paralleling existing lines.

(e) Abolition of the system of giving away Crown lands for townsites, free of taxation and under railway control.

(f) All franchises for the construction, operation, and ownership or leasing of Government-aided roads to be open for public competition.

(g) The Province to co-operate with the Dominion in aiding highway construction.

(h) The prevention of over-capitalization of railways.

(i) Aid to railways not to exceed what is reasonably necessary to secure construction.

(j) Freight, passenger and express rates and telegraph tolls of all Government-aided roads to be under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Railway Commission.

(k) With a view to meeting the demand for the transportation of grain from Saskatchewan and Alberta, the immediate construction of Government-owned elevators.

(l) The people to control the railways, and not the railways the people.

3.—Timber

(a) We condemn without reserve the wholesale disposal of timber lands to speculators which has been the only timber policy of the present Government.

(b) The survey, cruising and valuation of timber lands by the Government before alienation, and the disposal of all such lands by public competition to actual users.

(c) Improved methods of preventing timber waste, and systematized re-afforestation.

(d) Hand loggers' licenses to be granted where conditions demand.

(e) Stability of tenure, Crown dues and ground rents to be fixed for definite periods.

4.—Public Protection in Respect to Coal

(a) Coal lands not to be alienated, but leased under conditions to be fixed periodically by the Legislature.

(b) Wherever practicable and necessary, Government operation of coal mines to be at once undertaken with a view to the protection of the consuming public.

5.—Practical Education

(a) We recommend the appointment of a representative advisory board in educational matters, such as exists in all other provinces.

(b) The present school curriculum is so overloaded with subjects as to render thorough education in any branch impossible.

(c) The increase of manual and agricultural training. Establishment of an efficient system of technical schools.

(d) The present school system bears unjustly on settlers in unorganized districts and should be immediately adjusted.

(e) All political partisanship should be eliminated from the Education Department.

6.—Representation

(a) Personal registration and regular periodical system of redistribution.

(b) We are pledged as a Party to provide for the equal suffrage of women with men.

7.—Taxation

(a) Exemption of improvements on all lands paying taxes to the Provincial Government.

(b) A readjustment of the system of taxation whereby the Province will receive a fairer proportion of the unearned increment.

(c) Immediate reform of the present costly, cumbersome and inequitable system of collecting school taxes in unorganized districts.

8.—Labor—Workmen's Compensation Without Litigation

(a) The creating of a Provincial Department of Labor and free Government Labor Bureaus.

(b) A thorough and frequent inspection of all industrial premises to insure health, sanitation and safety.

(c) The complete prohibition of child labor in factories and shops.

(d) The establishment by the Government of a permanent Industrial Insurance Commission, independent of politics. This Commission to have full charge of a system providing positive compensation to employees for injury received during employment, without recourse to litigation, and giving employers the benefit of accident insurance at minimum cost.

(e) The extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act to cover all hazardous employments.

(f) The payment of wages at least fortnightly.

(g) The minimum wage, the eight-hour day and six-day week on all public and Government-aided work.

9.—Oriental Immigration

(a) We stand for a white British Columbia and advocate continuously increasing stringency in immigration laws until this result is attained, and the total exclusion of Orientals from the Province.

(b) We insist on enforcing strict sanitary regulations in congested districts.

10.—Extension of Municipal Powers

(a) Increase of local control in municipal matters.

(b) Election of license and police commissioners by popular vote.

11.—Public Ownership of Utilities

We adhere to the principles of public ownership of all public utilities, the limitation of terms of franchises to corporations, renewing the same if in the public interest on equitable terms.

12.—Local Control of Liquor Traffic

(a) The complete removal of the liquor question from Party politics.

(b) Control of the traffic by municipalities, or in unorganized territory, in locally elected authorities.

(c) The adoption of a local option law.

(d) The regular inspection of all liquor offered for sale.

13.—Public Accounts

We insist on providing for an absolutely independent public Auditor-General, appointed and controlled absolutely by the Legislature.

14.—Fishery Control

(a) Immediate steps to restore the fishing industry to white fishermen.

(b) The protection of British Columbia fisheries from foreign poachers by the adequate policing of Canadian waters.

15.—Protection of Water Supply

The retention of all timber lands on watersheds tributary to cities, towns and municipalities, and the recovering by the Government of the present alienated properties.

16.—Torrens System of Registration of Titles

The present system of land registration is expensive and cumbersome and we pledge ourselves to the adoption of the Torrens system of titles and the reduction of registration fees.

17.—Non-Partisan Civil Service

The organization of the Civil Service Commission for both inside and outside service, so that appointments will be based on fitness and not on partisan services.

RESOLUTIONS BY THE LIBERALS IN CONVENTION

Resolutions as follows:

No. 1.

CANDIDATES.—This convention suggests to the Liberals of each constituency the advisability of calling nominating conventions with a view to placing in the field without delay candidates for seats in the Federal Parliament and Provincial Legislature.

No. 2.

LAURIER RESOLUTION.—This convention re-asserts its unlimited confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the revered leader of the Liberal Party, under whose wise and able guidance Canada, as never before, has prospered and risen to her present position in the Empire, and rejoices at the unanimity prevailing throughout the Liberal Party in Canada in the support of the time-honored Liberal principles.

No. 3.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

—The convention condemns in unmeasured terms the attitude of the McBride-Bowser Government towards the Canadian Northern Railway. So intimate have the relations between the Government and the railway company become that the interests of the Province have been entirely submerged in those of the Company. In defiance of all constitutional usage the McBride-Bowser Government in the session of 1911-12 rushed the prorogation and dissolution of the Legislature almost immediately after introducing unprecedented estimates and a Railway Policy adding millions to the liabilities of the Province. The electorate was given little or no opportunity to consider the legislation by which the Province was loaded down with responsibilities of enormous magnitude, the Provincial credit which should have been husbanded for the real development of British Columbia was diverted from its proper uses and handed over almost without limit to Mackenzie and Mann, and the electorate debauched with their own money to saddle the burden on themselves. Disgraceful as was that surrender, the actions of the Government during the recent session have finally demonstrated—if further proof were necessary—the fact that the McBride Government has long ceased to consider the interests of the people and has become merely the instrument of a railway corporation engaged in exploiting the treasury of the Province.

No. 4.

SEGREGATED VICE.—Resolved that this convention views with extreme regret the attitude of the Attorney-General of British Columbia towards organized social vice in the City of Vancouver and elsewhere throughout the Province. Not only are the provisions of the criminal code entirely ignored, but the Provincial Government has, through the first law officer of the Crown, declared in favor of the segregation of vice in Vancouver and elsewhere, and the protecting arm of the Crown as represented by the Attorney-General is thrown around the practice of prostitution in this Province. We absolutely refuse to concede that in order to minister to the base passions of any degraded portion of our

population, it is necessary to provide a district where unfortunates can be herded together for a purpose so repellant to all sense of decency, and so destructive to society. Such a contention is an admission that civilization is no more than a ghastly farce. It is a shocking enormity. We, therefore, demand an immediate enforcement of the laws in this connection; the prompt dispersion of the professional immoral element and a quick return to a state of things more consistent with civilization and public purity.

No. 5.

INDIAN QUESTION.—This convention regards with grave alarm the actions of the local Government in matters pertaining to the Indian title to land in this Province and to Indian Reserves. Beginning with secret orders-in-council in 1900 alienating rights of the Province in Indian lands to partisan favorites for little or no consideration, each step taken in the attempted administration of Indian affairs has been marked by governmental actions entirely opposed to all principles of justice and fair play. While asserting the entire absence of any Indian title in the lands of the Province, the Government has at the same time refused the just claim of the Indians to have their pretensions submitted to the Privy Council for consideration. While the commonest justice has been denied the aboriginal inhabitants, the closest friends of some of the Indian tribes have been employed under the pretence of friendly negotiation to betray them and their most important interests. Colossal sums have been paid to notorious political partisans to take advantage of the simple aboriginal inhabitants in these negotiations and immense amounts of public money have been expended by these partisans in mysterious ways, of which they refuse to give an account to the public at large. This notwithstanding that the Indians are the helpless wards of the Crown, to whose officers they are entitled to look for the most vigorous protection against anything that might militate against their interests.

No. 6.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION.—We note with the greatest pleasure the explicit admission made by Right Hon. Mr. Borden of the entire success of the arrangement come to in 1907 by the Hon. Mr. Lemieux on behalf of the Dominion Government with the Government of Japan for the limitation of the Japanese immigration into Canada, on the 2nd of last April. Mr. Borden, speaking on Canada's adhesion to the recent treaty arrangement between Great Britain and Japan, said: "I am free to say, in fact, I am very glad to say, that so far as my observation goes and so far as any information goes to show that agreement has been very loyally carried out by the Government of Japan." While this expression is a complete vindication of the action of the Laurier Government looking to a prevention of Japanese immigration it is also complete refutation of all the slander which has been levelled at the Liberal Administration in this matter during the last six years. We regret to note, however, that in the negotiation culminating in the recent treaty, the Premier of Canada, in violation of all the promises of the Conservative Party, and his own often repeated assurances, has given his written guarantee to the Japanese Government that in future so far as the immigration of aliens into Canada is concerned there will be no discrimination between British subjects and subjects of Japan. The Liberal Party once more takes its stand for a white British Columbia and vigorously asserts its position as set out in the Liberal Platform of 1912.

No. 7.

BANK ACT.—It is the opinion of this convention the only remedy for the abuses of the banking system as we have it today is the establishment of National Banks. The absence of any limitation on the amalgamation of banks places enormous and undue power in the hands of a few great banking institutions and individuals. The organization of trust companies in connection with the banks is a clear evasion of the Bank Act, enabling the banks indirectly to extort exorbitant interest and discount charges from the public. The recent amendment to the Bank Act withdrawing all limitations so far

as rates of discount is a backward step fraught with great danger to the public and we view with great alarm the recent events—a far too close alliance between the Federal Government and the great money-lending interests of the Dominion.

No. 8.

LIQUOR LICENSE ACT.—We regret and condemn the recent amendment to the Liquor Act making the hours for sale of liquor uniform throughout the Province, thereby taking away from municipalities the last vestige of local option as it relates to the liquor traffic.

No. 9.

RE JAILS.—The present system, or lack of system, by which prisoners liberated from jail are not provided with any means of returning to their homes, with the result that they become a burden on the community where jails are situated, is most reprehensible. Apart from the abuses to which it leads in this respect, humane reasons alone demand the adoption of a different system, including liberty money for discharged prisoners, as under the Penitentiaries Act.

No. 10.

LAND TITLES.—Resolved that the administration of the Lands Titles Office is a disgrace to the Province and that the Liberal Party pledge themselves when elected to put on such a force that titles shall be cleared up to date and not be over two years in arrears as at present, and we reaffirm the plank in the Platform in favor of the Torrens System.



SATURDAY SUNSET PRESSES, VANCOUVER, B. C.

